

Alabama Battles UCLA
On National TV Tonight

— Sports, Page B-1

The Punk
Fashions

— Page B-6



Chicago's Mayor Byrne
Can Really Raise Money

— Comment, Page A-8

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(Times Photo by Dave Dieter)

CROWD GATHERS AROUND AS COACH BRYANT'S COFFIN IS CARRIED INTO CHURCH

Thousands Bid Goodbye to Bryant

By ED SHEARER

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. (AP) — Hundreds of former players and coaches were among an estimated 3,000 persons who gathered in and around three Tuscaloosa churches this morning for the funeral of former Alabama football Coach Paul W. "Bear" Bryant.

Bryant died Wednesday of a massive heart attack, four weeks after the final victory of an illustrious 38-year career that made him the leader in coaching conquests, 323.

The funeral was short and simple, with only one eulogy.

It was delivered by the Rev. Joe Elmore, pastor of the First United Methodist Church, who said, "Our thoughts today are of one

person the Lord blessed and made a blessing. We give thanks to God for Paul Bryant."

A funeral cortege of 300 cars was to make its way from Tuscaloosa to the Elmwood Cemetery in Birmingham, 55 miles east, where the old coach was to be laid to rest.

Among the notables attending the services were two of Coach Bryant's greatest players ever, Heisman Trophy winner John David Crow and Lee Roy Jordan.

George Allen, coach of the Chicago Blitz of the new U.S. Football League, attended as a personal representative of President Reagan.

The list of mourners also included former coaches Woody Hayes of Ohio State, Darrell Royal of Texas, Frank Broyles of Arkansas, Fran Curci of Kentucky, Bobby Dodd of

Georgia Tech and Norm Van Brocklin of the Atlanta Falcons.

Eight members of Bryant's final Alabama football team carried his casket into the Methodist church 30 minutes before the services began as a crowd of several thousand looked on.

A blanket of red carnations, interspersed with a few white ones, covered the coffin completely.

"We give thanks to God for his long years of influence on young people, challenging them to excellence, discipline, confidence and hard work," the Rev. Elmore said.

"We give thanks to God today for his love of life, his caring, his down-to-earth goodness,"

Turn to Page A-2, Column 1

Pact Means 200 to 500 Jobs Here

By PETER COBUN
Times Staff Writer

The Air Force has awarded a first-phase computer contract of nearly a half-billion dollars to Sperry Corp. — a prize that will mean several hundred jobs and ultimately about \$100 million to its Huntsville subcontractor, Computer Sciences Corp.

Computer Sciences' Huntsville division will develop the software or programming for the new multibillion-dollar Air Force computer system worldwide.

The Sperry-CSC team won the fiercely sought contract — the largest commercial computer contract on record — after a four-year competition with the team of Burroughs Corp. and its subcontractor, Planning Research Corp.

ACCORDING TO a Sperry spokesman at its Blue Bell, Pa., facility today, the initial contract of \$476.2 million specifies that Sperry replace 287 older, obsolete computers at Air Force installations with 153 Sperry 1100/60 large-scale systems. More than 20,000 communications terminals will also be installed at Air Force bases.

The Sperry-Burroughs battle was ultimately for a much bigger prize than the Air Force contract awarded Thursday indicates. Through the 20-year life of the contract, its value could approach \$6 billion to Sperry and Computer Sciences Corp., industry sources said.

Sperry President Joseph J. Kroger, in a statement released this afternoon, said the first-stage "implementation period" of the pact will stretch eight years.

That stage will be followed by two, six-year contract options that could extend the contract into the year 2002, the Sperry executive said.

Officials at CSC's Huntsville facility have declined comment on the contract, referring all inquiries to its California headquarters. Under the terms of the agreement, signed by Sperry, CSC and the Air Force, only limited information can be disseminated — and that information is to come primarily from Sperry headquarters.

A spokesman for CSC at Los Angeles said Thursday night, "The news has just arrived of the Air Force announcement, and we're not prepared to comment."

Jim Furlong, the CSC corporate spokesman, added, "I really feel I can't comment on anything. We're waiting on information enabling us to make an announcement."

He had told *The Times* Tuesday that 200 new employees would be added to the present 500-employee workforce built up in Huntsville to compete for the contract. Other sources, however, have indicated to *The Times* that the Air Force contract could mean from 400 to 500 new jobs here.

Furlong confirmed in the earlier interview that CSC's Huntsville operation "will perform the full development of software system activities" if the contract were won.

"CSC would keep those activities in Huntsville," he had said.

THE TWO computer giants have competed for four years for the contract — a competition unusual for the military in that traditional price bidding was not the determining factor in the contract.

Turn to Page A-5

Thousands Bid Coach Bryant Last Farewell

Continued From Page A-1
Elmore continued.

Elmore also expressed thanks for Bryant's "ability to teach and motivate people — to teach them important lessons for life — that we must never get too proud to pray, that to be a man is a matter of character and class, that the No. 1 goal in life is to be a human being."

Bryant had "personal strength in leading men and the tenderness with which he could touch a child," said Elmore.

Coach Eddie Robinson of Grambling expressed his admiration for Bryant shortly before the services began.

"As long as they kick the ball off, there will always be some of his philosophy in the game with all the coaches he has in the game," Robinson said.

Robinson, at 63, six years younger than Bryant, became the only living coach with 300 lifetime victories following Bryant's death. Robinson has won 305.

Asked if he thought he might surpass Bryant's mark, Robinson said, "I don't know whether that

will ever happen. His is going to always be there and the great influence he's had on the game."

The crowd gathered around the cordoned-off downtown area of churches milled about in a quiet manner, relating tales of Bryant.

Once the services began, the immediate family and players coached by Bryant attended services in the Methodist church and others heard the service via loudspeakers in two neighboring churches, the Baptist and Presbyterian.

Gov. George C. Wallace, who had ordered flags flown at half staff in honor of Bryant, also attended the service.

THE COMMON thread that ran through the multitude of tributes to Bryant was loyalty.

It came from those who played for him, praising more the man than the coach who logged the most victories in college football history.

"He gave us something very few people can give," said former Alabama quarterback Steadman Shealy during a memorial service Thursday. "He gave us a part of himself."

Bryant, who carved a 323-85-17 record during his career, died six weeks to the day after he announced his retirement as head football coach at Alabama, the alma mater he served for 25 seasons.

Following his death, scores of his former players talked of Bryant's concern for others, how he had helped people through the years.

The old coach extended that help in death. An official of the eye bank in New York said Thursday night that Bryant agreed three months ago to donate his eyes to the eye bank in Tuscaloosa when he died.

Bryant's last hurrah came in the Liberty Bowl at Memphis four weeks before his death, when his struggling final 7-4 team sent him into retirement with a 21-15 victory over Illinois.

Bryant was admitted to the hospital Tuesday night after complaining of chest pains.

Dr. William A. Hill, his personal physician, said Bryant died of "massive coronary arrest."

Hill said the coach had arterial disease that had built up through the years.

"He did know he could no longer carry on the rigors of coaching," Hill said, adding that the stress of coaching year after year was a factor in his heart problems "to some degree."

Thursday's memorial service drew a somber crowd of 4,000 into Memorial Coliseum.

Shealy called Bryant "a winner here on earth and I am convinced now that he's a winner with God."

The crowd stood in silence as Bryant's widow, Mary Harmon, and her family entered the coliseum.

Perkins cut short a recruiting trip to North Carolina to return for the services.

He said he had talked with Mrs. Bryant and that she was holding up well.

Perkins said she told him to go on recruiting, saying, "if you've got a player out there, go get him. I'm not going to, of course," said Perkins. "There's plenty of time for that."

At the request of the family, the funeral caravan will pass slowly two Bryant landmarks as it rolls through Tuscaloosa — Bryant-Denny Stadium where Alabama lost only two games during his era and Memorial Coliseum, which housed Bryant's office.

Among the tributes to Bryant was one from a cross-state rival, former Auburn Coach Doug Barfield.

"We're losing more than just a great football coach," Barfield said. "We're losing a man who brought ideals and values to athletics. I'll always respect the man."



Trying New Legs

Bonaparte, a sandhill crane, tries out his new artificial legs with the help of Steve Prock, left, and David Medford in Sherman, Texas, Thursday. The crane lost its own legs to a trap near Corpus Christi and was airlifted so it could be

outfitted with new limbs by Prock, a prosthetist. Bonaparte had trouble with his plumbing pipe and wire legs, but it is hoped that that he will eventually stand alone.

(AP Laserphoto)

Jackson's Jobless Rate Goes To 25.5%

Times Jackson County Bureau

SCOTTSBORO — Jackson County's unemployment rate, continuing as the highest in the Tennessee Valley, rose to 25.5 percent in December, according to the Alabama State Employment Service here.

The jobless rate was up from 24.7 percent in November and it was practically twice the unemployment figure of 12.9 percent in December 1981.

The county lost some 1,370 manufacturing jobs in 1982, according to Herbert Hancock, employment service manager.

Attributing the increase in unemployment rate to additional industry layoffs, Hancock said the county's jobless rate is expected to remain among the highest in the state during the early part of this year.

Wilcox County has the highest unemployment rate in the state — 34 percent.

The state and national unemployment rates are 15.9 percent and 10.5 percent, respectively.

8 Found Dead In Prichard

PRICHARD, Ala. (AP) — Eight people were found dead today in a low-income housing project, all apparent victims of carbon monoxide poisoning, a hospital official said.

Carol Ann Jordan, a spokeswoman at the University of South Alabama Medical Center, said one other person, an adult, was injured.

The dead included both children and adults, she said.

The victims were found at Alabama Village, an apartment project for low-income families in this city adjacent to Mobile.

Challenger's Delay May Cost Contracts

COCOA, Fla. (AP) — Delta rockets may have to be used instead of the space shuttle Challenger to put two satellites in orbit and meet space agency contracts, an official says.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration announced Tuesday that repairs to one of Challenger's engines will push the next mission into mid- or late March. It was originally set for late January.

NASA Associate Administrator James Abrahamson said the delay could push back two flights, in April and July, to lift Indonesian and Indian communications satellites into orbit.

"There's a lot of contingency planning going on right now and one of the options is using expendable rockets, but we have to see how long the Challenger's delay is going to be," said Chester Lee, director of customer services for the space agency.

Lee said NASA managers on Wednesday contacted shuttle customers concerned that they would not get their cargoes into space on time.

One problem with switching from the shuttle to the Delta rocket would be adjusting the cost. Customers now pay about \$9 million for the shuttle ride as opposed to \$20 million for the Delta, officials said.

"We haven't discussed the price yet. That will be a top-level management decision," Lee said.

If NASA doesn't transport the shuttle's satellites on the 116-foot Deltas, space agency officials will have to juggle schedules and possibly postpone one of this year's four remaining missions to 1984.

"The Department of Defense mission (now scheduled for November) is a high priority," said Lee.

The other shuttle customer potentially affected is the European Space Lab, scheduled to be put into space by September or October.

Officials said if the laboratory is not put in space on time, a delay until early 1984 would be needed because of a variety of conditions in space and on Earth that have to be synchronized for experiments.

Proposal Would End 'Step' Raises

Continued From Page A-1

IN HIS OTHER proposals, Devine suggested:

- A "management rights clarification" that would give OPM the power to define what is an "appropriate" bargaining issue for federal employee unions. "The advantages to clearly specifying what is negotiable and what is not negotiable are considerable, since they will ensure the protection of essential management prerogatives," the memo said. "At the present, labor raises many trivial issues, simply out of frustration with the fact they cannot bargain over pay and benefits."

The OPM does not have clear statutory authority to define bargaining issues for federal unions. That is done by the Federal Labor Relations Authority on a

case-by-case basis.

But Devine's memo said recent decisions by the FLRA "have indicated that the FLRA might be amenable to OPM assuming a forward policy role." FLRA officials said they had no idea what Devine meant, and Devine said Thursday that he wasn't sure what the phrase meant, either. "Somebody here probably does," he said.

- Changing overtime rules in a way that will "make federal government practices closer to, but still more generous than, private sector ones." Devine's memo said the change, requested by the Defense Department, would "remove an existing incentive to work overtime." Exceptions would be continued for air traffic controllers, law enforcement officers and firefighters.

John Pruett

Somber Day

TUSCALOOSA — Wednesday was a day of shock and disbelief.

Thursday was a day of reflection and quiet acceptance. Today is a day of somber resignation — the day of Paul "Bear" Bryant's funeral...

Clem Gryska, who once coached at Huntsville High and who has been associated with Paul Bryant at Alabama for the past 24 years, gazed out his office window at Memorial Coliseum. A cold soft rain was falling from leaden skies. The huge American flag fluttered at half-mast from the flagpole on the front lawn. On the front steps, a television reporter and his cameraman were taping a spot for the evening news. Down by the tennis courts, a boy and a girl held hands. Thomas Field, where generations of Alabama football players have practiced in the sun and the rain, loomed off to the left.



PRUETT

Gryska swiveled in his chair and mustered a feeble smile.

"I woke up this morning and remembered what happened," he said, "but in my mind I was thinking, 'It's just a dream, a nightmare. I'll go to work and he'll be down the hall, like he always is.' I kept thinking, 'I'll wake up soon.' But I never did."

Clem Gryska was just across the hall in a waiting room at Druid City Hospital when Paul Bryant died Wednesday following a massive heart attack. He and four other members of the Alabama staff — associate athletic director Sam Bailey, trainer Jim Goostree, academic counselor Gary White and Billy Varner, Bryant's bodyguard — had been summoned to the hospital when they learned Bryant had taken a sudden turn for the worse.

"They were still working on him when we got there," said Gryska. "Paul Jr. came out and said he'd had a massive heart attack. Paul kept coming out of the room and telling us, 'They're still working on him.' Then about 1:30, he walked out and got teary-eyed and said, 'Well, he's gone. He didn't make it, or something to that effect.'"

Gryska felt like he had been hit in the stomach with a hammer.

"I'm gullible," he said. "When he said 'massive heart attack,' it didn't mean a thing to me. I figured he'd have to stay in a couple of weeks, then he'd walk out of there..."

Billy Varner, a member of the university police force, has known Bryant for 25 years, and has been the coach's personal bodyguard since 1976.

At the Bryant's fashionable brick home across the Black Warrior River in Northport, Varner was still on the job Thursday afternoon. He was there to help Mary Harmon and her children and grandchildren in whatever way he could. The family was having a tough time.

But Billy Varner was having a tough time himself. His best friend and confidant was gone, and Billy kept going back to Tuesday night, when the nightmare began at Jimmy Hinton's house.

"We went over to Mr. Hinton's from the office," said Varner. "Everything was going fine. They were talking about bird hunting or something, and Coach remembered he was supposed to call a couple of prospects. But he told me he'd left the numbers by his phone at the office. I went back to the office to get 'em and came right on back. It took about 20 minutes. In just that amount of time, he got sick. While I was gone."

Varner pulled into the Hinton driveway just as two paramedics from the coronary care unit arrived, tires



(Times Photo by Rod Whited)

Bodyguard Billy Varner Could Always Be Seen Occupying a Place Next to Paul Bryant's Side

squealing and emergency lights flashing. "It scared the hell out of me," said Billy. "I was just scared, period. There were four people in that house, and I didn't know which one was needing help..."

To get to Hayes Funeral Home, you drive west on 15th Street past the old Tuscaloosa High School, turn left at the Burger Chef, then left again at the Taco Casa, then go straight for three blocks and you're there.

A steady stream of visitors came to Hayes Funeral Home Thursday to view the closed casket of Paul Bryant, which was draped in red and white carnations amid a small forest of fern. Alongside was a small stand with a red "A" and two words, written in white script: "The Greatest..."

At 4:30 in the afternoon, there was a memorial service at the Coliseum for the college students and the townspeople.

Roger Sayers, the vice president of academic affairs, presided in the absence of university president Joab Thomas, who is in Australia. Sayers read a telegram of sympathy from Bryant's old friend, evangelist Billy Graham. Then Rev. Thomas Dohrman, chairman of campus ministries, said a prayer. Then Steadman Shealy, who once played quarterback for Bryant, spoke for a few

minutes on Bryant the man and Bryant the coach.

"I'll always remember the prayer Coach Bryant prayed after the Liberty Bowl," said Shealy. "I was a couple of people over from him, on my knees, and he was on his knees. Here was the greatest coach of all time, and he wasn't too proud to get on his knees before God. He said, 'Lord, thank you for allowing me to be a part of football, to be a part of this team, to be a part of this university, and for these many happy years in coaching.'"

"Coach Bryant," said Shealy, "was a winner on earth, as you all know. But I'm convinced he is also a winner now — with God."

At the end, Edwin Weaver of the music department led the audience in the alma mater. The words, written by Helen Vickers in 1908, never seemed more appropriate, or more poignant:

Alabama, listen mother,
To our vows of love;
To thyself and to each other,
Faithful friends we'll prove.
Faithful, loyal, firm and true,
Heart bound to heart will beat;
Year by year, the ages thru,
Until in heav'n we meet.



Times Photo

PAUL 'BEAR' BRYANT
A College Coaching Legend

Bear Bryant Was Special

By WILL GRIMSLEY
AP Special Correspondent

There are men who transcend events, and one of them certainly was Paul "Bear" Bryant.

One can count on the fingers of one hand the personalities who can walk into a crowded room and suddenly create a tremendous hush, a turning of heads and whispers sounding like a gentle breeze.

One of them was the "Bear," a great molder of men and teams who died in Tuscaloosa Wednesday, his mission accomplished.

His was a special aura of greatness. To a degree, the same could be said of Joe DiMaggio and Muhammad Ali, among sports figures, few below presidential and general status among others.

It's an extraordinary magnetism, a quality that elevates them above us ordinary mortals. People, even the great, the rich and the famous, have looked upon them as special golden threads sewn into the nation's tapestry.

The death of Bear Bryant strikes particularly deep to me because we were of the same era — our respective careers crossing more than 40 years ago and then branching out in divergent directions.

It's something I've written before — as one often does when growing long on the tooth.

I was a struggling sports writer in Nashville when Red Sanders, the Vanderbilt head football coach, summoned a young assistant from Alabama to be what would now be called a defensive coordinator but then was simply a line coach.

His name: Paul Bryant, a rangy, handsome man who had played the opposite end of the line. He was on the Alabama team that beat Stanford 29-13 in the 1965 Rose Bowl.

Alabama Players Lost a Coach and a Father

TUSCALOOSA (AP) — The first reaction was disbelief. The second was shock, followed by a numb acceptance of the news. Paul W. "Bear" Bryant was dead, and many Alabama athletes and coaches who knew the former football coach "like a daddy" broke down and wept.

"I just fell down and cried," said nose guard Mike Rodriguez. "I tried to hide, but I couldn't. He's the reason I came here. He meant everything to me."

"He was just like a daddy to all of us," said Jack Rutledge, an assistant coach under Bryant for more than two decades. His death on Wednesday, Rutledge said, "was a total shock."

Many strong, young athletes and toughened assistants broke into tears when they were told Bryant was dead.

Crimson Tide followers also wept on the air when they called radio stations that had broken off normal programming to report the death bulletins.

Telephone lines were jammed in Tuscaloosa, prompting the phone company to put out a plea on radio urging people not to call the campus because of overloaded lines.

Most of the Alabama players got the word while they were working out with weights Wednesday afternoon. The duty of informing them fell to Al Browning, a friend of the Bryant family.

"It just went stone quiet," he said. "They were just stunned, like they couldn't even move."

Defensive back Jeremiah Castille celebrated with

Bryant a month ago. He had intercepted three passes as Alabama defeated Illinois 21-15 in the Liberty Bowl.

"What can I say?" Castille asked. "I wish I didn't have to say anything. I never thought I'd be here when he retired, but for him to die ... I never expected it. It never crossed by mind. It's tough to deal with, really tough."

Jesse Bendross, a star wide receiver for Alabama, struggled to speak as he related hearing the news from baseball players, whose practice was cancelled.

"It's very sad," said Bendross. "It's bad enough to lose him as a head football coach (with his retirement last month). But now to know he's passed away ... there's a lump in your throat. It's something none of us expected to happen."

Willard Scissum of Huntsville, a brawny offensive guard, said, "I was extremely shocked when I heard it... I thought it was just a bunch of rumors, you know. But the coaches came in and told us he had died from a massive heart attack."

Ray Perkins, the former Alabama star and New York Giants coach who was named to succeed Bryant only last month, was in North Carolina on a recruiting trip when the death occurred.

"I always thought of Coach Bryant as a greater man than football coach," said Perkins when contacted, "because of what he has meant to so many people during their playing careers and then afterwards."

"He had been so very loose and relaxed since coming back from the Liberty Bowl," said Perkins. "I've seen

the man laugh more in the past few weeks than I have in a long time."

"He has always been a fatherly image to me, even from a distance," said Perkins.

University President Joab Thomas said, "The entire University of Alabama community, the state, and indeed, the country grieve at this shocking and terrible loss."

"He was more than the finest football coach who ever lived," said Thomas, "he was a great teacher, a great man and a dear personal friend."

Clem Gyska, an assistant athletic director, said the death was "a severe loss. Coach Bryant meant possibly more to me than my Dad did. I left home to come to Alabama when I was 17 and I spent 24 years with coach Bryant, more than I spent with my Dad."

C.M. Newton, who was basketball coach at Alabama under Bryant and is now coach at Vanderbilt, said Bryant was "more than a man you work for. He was kind of a father figure."

Taylor Stone, who was Bryant's airplane pilot on recruiting trips and other travel engagements, said they had "a lot of mighty good times. He was just 10 years older than me, but I felt like he was a daddy to me."

Tim Davis, a place-kicker on the 1965 national championship team and now a doctor in Birmingham, said, "I'm just sick. I've lost a very close friend ... even now, I feel that he is looking over my shoulder."



(AP Laserphoto)

Dr. WILLIAM HILL (L) EXPLAINS DEATH
Team Doctor Gabe Fernandez Was With Bryant

Bad Health Was Reason Bear Gave Up Coaching

TUSCALOOSA (AP) — Former Alabama coach Paul "Bear" Bryant knew that he "could no longer carry on the rigors of coaching" when he announced his retirement last month, his physician said.

Dr. William A. Hill said Bryant had suffered heart trouble since 1980, but he had a "tremendous strength" that allowed him to keep coaching past his 69th birthday.

Bryant's death Wednesday — attributed to "massive coronary arrest" — came six weeks after he announced he was retiring as head coach, after a quarter century at Alabama.

"I was relieved when he announced his retirement," Hill said Thursday. "He did know that he could no longer carry on the rigors of head coaching."

Hill said Bryant's death was brought on by arterial disease common among people his age.

"It is a disease that 50 percent of the American people have," he said. "I don't think that the pressures of the job contributed to it."

But Hill added that, while many people outside of football suffer the same coronary problems, the stress of coaching year after year was a factor "to some degree" in Bryant's illness.

Bryant's death, said Hill, was caused by a "coronary occlusion," or blockage, brought on by hardening of the arteries.

He said it was a disease that had built up "through the years" and was part of the aging process.

"Coach Bryant was a full 69 years old," the physician said. "He's lived a hard and trying life. He's been such a tower of strength to so many people, including me, that we seem to forget that he really was an old man."

"But an old man with tremendous strength."

As an example of that strength, Hill said Bryant was suffering from heart ailments during the past three years — a period in which Bryant was the focus of intense national interest as he broke the record for most college football victories.

Hill said Bryant was hospitalized in 1980 "with heart failure, where the heart muscle was weakened." But he was placed on heart medication and returned to coaching in about a week, said Hill.

A year later, the doctor said, Bryant suffered a "small stroke," which paralyzed the right side of his body for about a day.

"I suspect a small clot from his heart reached his brain, or perhaps plaque off an artery, was the cause," said Hill. But Bryant went on medication to counter that problem and, once again, continued coaching.

"He made a remarkable recovery after the stroke two years ago," said Hill.

It was in the fall of 1981 that Bryant marched past Amos Alonzo Stagg's old record of 314 career victories to become the winningest coach in college football history.

"I think his accomplishments and the record he achieved in the last three years, and personally knowing the difficulty he worked under, makes his achievement all the more remarkable," Hill said.

Rose Bowl.

He looked like a Hollywood matinee idol — over six feet, lean and ramrod straight with bluish green eyes that some might say were like icy steel yet more resembled the waters of a placid lake.

His wife, Mary Harmon, was his college sweetheart, a campus queen. They were an immediate hit in the city from whose outlying environs "Old Hickory," Andrew Jackson came and which even then was the capital of country music.

But the "Bear" was not long for this place — those piercing eyes looked toward other horizons ... Maryland, Kentucky, Texas A&M and the last 25 years his alma mater, Alabama, where he was to fashion the greatest record in all football.

It was little more than a year ago that the Bear had scaled the winning pinnacle reached before only by Amos Alonzo Stagg and then last month he announced his retirement, choosing to spend his final years removed from the constant pressures of his chosen profession.

There is a touch of irony in this. It's as if, with no distant star to drive him, the old bear wrestler from Fordyce, Ark., just sighed and passed the pigskin to other hands.

Had he not shunned repeated beckoning calls from the pros, the "Bear" might well have been at the Super Bowl with a championship team this week playing for the game's highest prize.

The mercenary game never appealed to him.

"I like to work with kids and watch them develop," Bryant said on many occasions. "I wouldn't care to coach a ready-made team."

Yet pro coaches held him in as much awe as his college peers. He was the game's most respected mastermind.

His former pupils saturate the country — players, coaches, successful businessmen and plain, everyday guys who learned from him a little extra something on how to fend against the tentacles of life.

He could be a stern task master, yet he was universally hailed as a teacher and motivator.

His impact is reflected in the eulogies which poured in from everywhere:

"He was a man's man."

"I'll never forget the discipline he gave me."

"He seemed tough on the outside. Inside he was all heart."

As the years passed, and victory piled upon victory, Paul Bryant became a national legend as millions watched him perform his magic on TV — the familiar hound's tooth hat pulled over his eyes, his shoulders slightly stooped, his strong face creased by the sun and advancing age.

He won an amazing 323 games — "I didn't do it, the players did. I was just chairman of the board," he said modestly. He sent teams into 29 bowl games, winning only one more than he lost or tied (15-12-2, once going 0-7-1 in a losing streak).

Yet his unspectacular bowl record should be a lasting monument to his sensitivity and values.

He worked his players hard to turn them into winners. To him, bowl games were never a personal ego trip but a reward and vacation for his exhausted kids.

For the "Bear," it was always the kids.

Namath Praises Former Coach

Bear Knew How to Change

NEW YORK (AP) — Joe Namath, star quarterback at the University of Alabama during the early 1960s, said Thursday that one of the reasons the late Bear Bryant was such a great football coach was because "he was able to change with the times."

"He was a great man, a great father figure, a leader and he did a great job of it," Namath said on ABC-TV's Good Morning America in an interview from a hotel in Dallas.

"He made a tremendous impression on me," Namath added about Bryant, who died Wednesday of a heart attack at the age of 69.

Namath, later an All-Pro quarterback with the New York Jets, said that it bothered Bryant that he had lost "much energy" during the 1982 season, when Alabama posted an 8-4 record, its worst since 1970.

"He really enjoyed taking part in practices from time to time and being able to show boys how to block a man, for example," Namath said. "But not having the physical strength anymore to get down there and move them around a little bit, fire them up a little bit the way he liked to, I don't think he enjoyed it as much as he used to."

Namath also recalled the time Bryant benched him for the 1964 Sugar Bowl for violating team regulations.

"It did create a closer bond," Namath said. "I had made an infringement on the rules and he impressed upon me the fact that we all had to live according to the same rules from time to time. He and I never had a cross word with each other. As did most players who played with Coach Bryant over the years, we learned to love him a great deal and he treated us all alike."

Namath also recalled a moving halftime talk from Bryant.

"One time I remember a great inspirational speech from Coach Bryant," he said. "It came when we were losing a football game 3-0 at halftime. We went to the locker room and we all took our positions and it was quiet. We knew Coach Bryant had something serious to say to us. He came in the locker room, summed up the situation and he started clapping and laughing and he said, 'Hey, those boys had their fun in the first half, now we're going to go out and have our's this half.'"

"He had many ways of getting people together to go out and do the job and it wasn't just one set way each time."



(AP Laserphoto)

BRYANT KNEW WHEN TO MAKE CHANGES
A Young Joe Namath Poses With Coach in 1964

Bryant Taught His Players Something About Life

CLEMSON, S.C. (AP) — Clemson football Coach Danny Ford, who played and coached at Alabama under Paul "Bear" Bryant, says his legendary mentor "taught all his players something about life."

Ford said the news Wednesday afternoon that Bryant had died of a heart attack hit him "like a ton of bricks." Bryant, 69, announced his retirement six weeks ago.

One of Ford's predecessors at Clemson, retired Coach Frank Howard, said he tried to talk his old friend Bryant into retiring several years back but failed.

Howard praised the winningest college coach of all time as "a tremendous credit to the game of football."

"There's nobody I respected more, except my father, than Coach Bryant," said Ford, who coached his own Tigers to the 1981 national championship.

Ford said the man who coached him "is going to be missed by so many people because he helped so many."

"That was his main goal in life — to help people. And he reached so many of them. He taught all his players something about life."

"He related football to life and everybody who was under his teachings had to come out a better person. And when you think about the thousands

of players who wore his colors, it's easy to determine that this world is a little bit better because of Coach Bryant," Ford said.

"It was going to be difficult not seeing him on the sidelines next fall, but his death is going to leave a void in so many places."

Ford, who played tight end from 1967 to 1969, was a graduate assistant under Bryant in 1970 and 1971 and an assistant coach in 1972 and 1973. He

Liberty Bowl Reprinting Program

MEMPHIS — T. J. "Jerry" Foley, football program director for the Liberty Bowl Festival Association has announced that the Liberty Bowl has made arrangements to print additional 1982 Liberty Bowl football programs.

"We have received orders for souvenir programs from 26 states, including Hawaii," said Foley. "We sold out the first print of 15,000 programs before the kickoff. Our vendors reported customers buying 10 to 50 programs at a time. To our knowledge the Liberty Bowl program is the first to enjoy a second printing. Programs are \$5 each including mailing. We are notifying by mail all those with program requests on file in our office, that their order will be filled about the 15th of February. We will also accept mail orders until the 5th of February."

Send check or money order for \$5 per program desired to: Liberty Bowl Program, 335 S. Hollywood, Memphis, TN 38104

has been head coach at Clemson since 1979.

"I'm mighty sorry to hear about Bear's passing," said Howard. "He was a tremendous credit to the game of football. He coached good, sound football and he was wise enough to copy anything he thought was good."

"There's no doubt that he'll go down on record as one of the greatest of them all, along with Amos Alonzo Stagg, Pop Warner, Wallace Wade and a few others."

"I just hate he didn't get out of coaching soon enough to enjoy life. But maybe he was getting more enjoyment out of coaching than he would have out of retirement," said Howard.

Howard graduated from Alabama in 1931 and Bryant came there as a freshman later the same year.

But when Howard was a junior and senior, Bryant attended high school in Tuscaloosa for two years before entering Alabama. And Bryant lived in the same dormitory as Howard during those two years.

The two met and became friends.

Howard, a well-known storyteller, said his stories about Bryant were never mean-spirited.

"I always like to tell stories on him, but I don't tell stories on anybody unless I like 'em. I tried to get him out of coaching three or four years ago, but he wouldn't listen," Howard said.

But the colorful Clemson coach said his team had done its part to build the Bryant legend.

"I guess we helped him with that record," Howard said. "He beat us five times and I don't think he ever thanked me."



(Times Photo by Dudley Campbell)

Paul 'Bear' Bryant 1913-1983

Final Memory Of a Treasure

By RAY SONS
Chicago Sun-Times

LOS ANGELES — When the news hits you that death has come calling for someone you have known, you always remember the last day you saw him alive. You try to hold onto that day, burn it into your memory.

The look on a face, a few murmured words, the presence of the person — suddenly they are treasured souvenirs that cannot be purchased or replaced at any price.

For me, the news of Bear Bryant's passing brought to mind a silly inconsequential encounter — a ride on a hotel elevator in Memphis on the last Wednesday of 1982.

Illinois would play Alabama in the Liberty Bowl football game in less than three hours, and I was in a hurry to ride that elevator down, shoulder my way through the wall-to-wall press of the Crimson Tide fans in the lobby of the hotel where the Alabama team and most visiting writers were staying and beat the traffic jam that was sure to build on the route to the stadium.

The door opened on my floor, and I was face-to-face with one of the most famous faces south of Mt. Rushmore. Houndstooth-checked hat. Red and white sportcoat. A half smile on the lips. And those piercing eyes.

"I guess I'm not going to be late," I said as the door closed behind me. "They can't start without you." Bear Bryant grinned.

I followed him into the lobby, and the sea of humanity parted before him as though he were not just a celebrity, but a deity. At the hotel entrance, he disappeared into a limousine surrounded by police.

We were in Tennessee, but there were Alabama state cops on hand to look after their state treasure. Sirens of his

A Real Tower Bryant Always Stood Tall

By JOHN POWERS
Boston Globe

BOSTON — The sign told me, "DO NOT STAND UNDER TOWER." Presumably because coach Bryant might just decide to come down. Maybe, I guessed, something like the Ascension in reverse.

It was 97 degrees that day up where he was and not a damn thing in all of Tuscaloosa was moving — except the Tide. "Dig 'im, dig 'im, dig 'im," an Alabama defensive coach was urging E.J. Junior on the practice field. Coach Bryant said nothing.

Every so often, if a receiver bobbled a routine pass, I heard a mumble waft down. "Aww, gotta have those, gotta have those." Presently, the reason for Paul W. Bryant Hall (no Alabama resident ever called him "Bear") came ambling down the spiral staircase.

Nobody was standing underneath.

He mumbled something to his team, then ambled back above. Later, as we relaxed in a small cubicle near the Tide's dressing room, I asked Bryant what sort of things he said to his young men when he was earthbound.

The chin, which had been lodged somewhere below his clavicle, came up slowly. The corners of the eyes crinkled. "None of your damn bidness," he growled. "When I'm talking to my team, that's like talking to my wife."

I wasn't sure he ever talked much to Mary Harmon Bryant about his team, either. Most years, when he looked at his people in August, he found things that worried him. This was 1980. The Tide was coming off consecutive national championships but a third one, he said, was going to take a miracle.

They were a fine bunch of young men, Bryant assured me. "Good chillun." But maybe he was expecting too much. It was awful hard, he said, for a slow guy to be quick.

There was a weariness in him that summer. For several years, Bryant had said he was just a tired old man, just shufflin' along trying to stay out of the hospital. But that July, he checked into the hospital, "to get my medicine right," and the doctors had told him the cigarettes, a daily pack of unfiltered Chesterfields, were history.

Coach had grumbled about that. He hadn't picked up the damn habit until he was 28. Now, he said, at 67, it was one of the few things he could still do.

He was still going to coach, though, as long as 'Bama won and the folks there wanted him. Major Ogilvie, one of Bryant's running backs,

had gone to see him in the hospital and found him sitting in his coaching pants and shoes, papers strewn all about, thinking on Georgia Tech.

Folks around Tuscaloosa said Bryant was handling less of the daily workload that he once had, that his assistants were plotting much of the game strategy. Coach restructured his workday, inserting a walk, a swim and a nap in his office, easing off things just a bit.

But whenever the Tide took the field for a day's work, he was in the tower with his ballcap, golf shirt, khaki trousers, walking shoes and national championship ring. Not much eluded him up there.

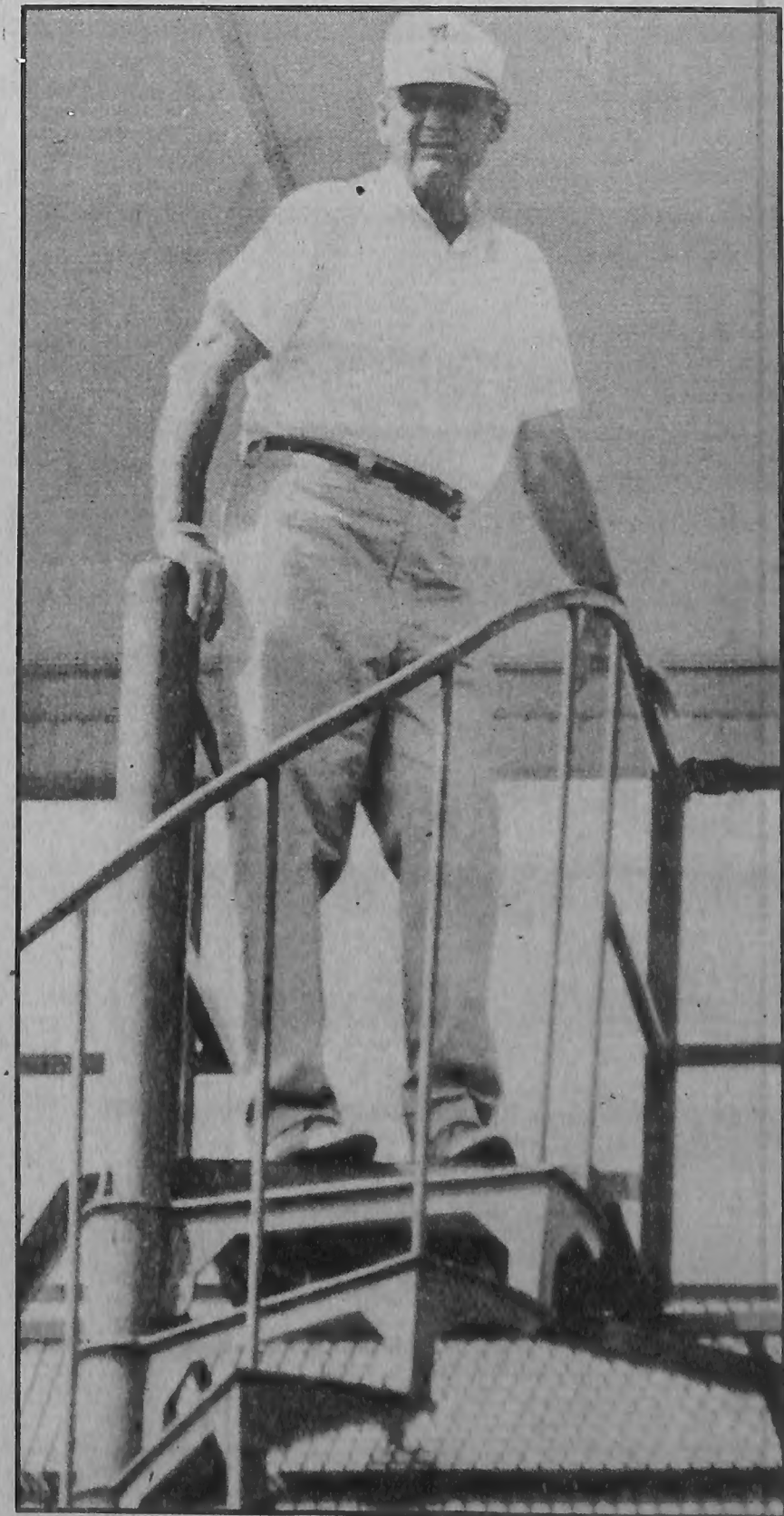
He kept hold of his rituals, still walking once around the field counterclockwise before games, still observing his varsity warm up from beneath a goalpost, rolled program in one fist. The houndstooth hat was a fixture everywhere except inside the Louisiana Superdome. Southern gentlemen did not wear hats indoors.

But the more I saw Bryant the last few years, crossing the gridiron after the Sugar Bowl or leaning against a wall at Legion Field, the more he looked to have had a bellyful of it. Each year, the face seemed more, deeply creased, the drawl slower, the eyes more crinkled. I'd remembered how he'd appeared after 'Bama had crunched Arkansas in the Dome for the national title, and his troopers, Capt. Nichols and Capt. Miller, had escorted him to the dressing room.

The crowd had surged around Bryant, bumping up against him, reaching out to touch, and he'd pushed on, shoulders slumped, legs moving mechanically, face blank. A tired old man.

By the end of last autumn, he'd passed all the milestones a man had need for — more career victories than any Division I coach, a mess of bowl trophies, a handful of national championship rings. They had named a dormitory after him and half a football stadium. Some unreconstructed Dixiecrat had cast a vote for him at the 1968 national convention in Chicago. Time to move on. Mary Harmon had been patient long enough.

He was not a man who put much stock in records, anyway. He said he couldn't remember any games he had ever won. Players did that. Man named Paul Bryant had been known to mess up a few, though, and he'd list them for you. He wasn't sure what the scorebook said, Coach Bryant told you. But he knew what his epitaph would be when time finally ran out on him, as it did Wednesday: He Never Could Beat Notre Dame.



Paul 'Bear' Bryant Strikes Familiar Pose

Arkansas Mourns Loss of Native Son

By The Associated Press

A recruiting trip for Arkansas State coach Larry Lacewell soured. Legislators in the state Senate and House prayed silently. And the governor's office readied a proclamation to lower the state flags to half-staff. A native son had died.

Those were among some of the first reactions Wednesday to the news that Paul "Bear" Bryant, 69, the winningest coach in college football history had died.

Bryant, reared in Moro Bottom not far from Fordyce, Ark., died Wednesday afternoon of a massive heart attack at a Tuscaloosa, Ala., hospital. He is to be buried today in Birmingham, Ala.

The Alabama coach was born Sept. 11, 1913, and was in a family of 11 brothers and sisters. The first football game he ever saw was one he played in for the Redbugs

and his nickname was earned by wrestling a bear for 50 cents as a teen-ager.

His death follows by four weeks his last football victory as coach at Alabama and by six weeks his decision to retire from coaching after 25 years with the Crimson Tide. He had remained as athletic director.

Lacewell, who knew Bryant from his own childhood in Fordyce and who was a graduate assistant under Bryant at Alabama, said early today that he was in a recruit's house in St. Louis when the news was announced on television.

"I was just talking away," Lacewell said by telephone. The news left him more shocked than he can ever remember. That, he said, was about the end of the recruiting trip.

As he made the five-hour auto trip back to Jonesboro late Wednesday, Lacewell thought of all the stories that

he knew about Bryant and about their last visit together.

That, he said, was at the National Collegiate Athletic Association meeting in Los Angeles earlier this month. "It was probably one of the most enjoyable visits I've ever had with him. We talked about my daddy, my little boy and Fordyce. He seemed to let his guard down. ... He didn't seem like the warhorse to me at all. I love him. I'll miss him about as much as anybody."

Lacewell's father and Bryant played football together for the Fordyce High School Redbugs. The past football season, Lacewell's Indians, an NCAA Division I-AA school, played Alabama.

"That was a typical Bear Bryant move," Lacewell said. "We needed the money and we needed the publicity and he didn't need the victory." Alabama won the game.

after their state treasure. Sirens of his escort wailed into the distance as he was whisked to his last game. No other football coach would ever be so cherished.

And I wondered what he really thought of all this. For days, he had been telling us this last game he would ever coach was no big deal to him. Everybody else was treating it as Caruso's last concert, or even Washington's Farewell Address.

He kept saying he didn't think much about it at all. Maybe it would mean something to him in weeks to come, when he had time to think about it, but all the fuss was just a bother to him now. I thought he was just giving us the "Aw shucks" routine. In retrospect, I think he meant it.

Sitting next to Illinois' Mike White, who seemed delighted at his first exposure to national attention, Bryant seemed bored at press conferences and impatient at a luncheon at which speaker after speaker trumpeted his praises.

It wasn't modesty that made him fidget. When you are Bear Bryant, and you have won more games than anyone, who needs more praise?

He outlived the vanity that makes others preen. In his declining years, his assistants did much of the work. But there was no pretense in him. He came right out and told us he didn't know what the game plan was for Illinois because he hadn't had a part in it.

It was a simple statement of fact by a man who had received so much credit for his deeds that there was no need in him to claim credit for the work of others.

The parking lot outside the hotel was jammed with cars and recreational vehicles bearing bumper stickers that said: "I saw Bear's last game."

The hotel gift shop was selling \$80 framed prints of him standing on the sidelines in his familiar pose. There wasn't a governor or a senator in all of the South who could hope to be so revered.

He stayed in coaching until age 69 because coaching had been his life. He didn't know what to do without it.

John Underwood of *Sports Illustrated* wrote Bear had brushed off earlier suggestions that he retire by saying:

"Quit coaching? I'd croak in a week."

He lasted four weeks. But, really, he will last as long as football is with us.



Paul Bryant Brought Toughness to Texas A&M

Bryant Awarded 67 Letters as His Final Act

Sixty-Seven members of the 1982 Alabama Crimson Tide football team have been awarded letters as legendary coach Paul W. "Bear" Bryant made his 38th and final such announcement during a career in which he became the winningest coach in intercollegiate history.

A breakdown by class showed the following lettermen: Seniors — 28; Juniors — 23; Sophomores — 13 and Freshmen — 3.

The seniors included Joe Beazley, Gary Bramblett, Larry Brown, Jeremiah Castille, Bob Cayavec, Jackie Cline, Ken Coley, John Elias, Jeff Fagan, Josh Henderson, Danny Holcombe, Scott Homan, Robbie Jones, Peter Kim, Eddie Lowe, Steve Mott, Mike Pitts, Roy Rumbley, Richard Shinn, Jerrill Sprinkle, Darryl White, Tommy Wilcox, Russ Wood, Keith Marks, Bill

Brown, Mike O'Toole, Johnny Brooker and Gerald Swan.

The juniors included Mike Adcock, Jesse Bendross, Al Blue, Steve Booker, Paul Ott Carruth, Joe Carter, Randy Edwards, Paul Fields, Stan Gay, Steve Grogan, Roosevelt Hill, Mark Jackson, Joey Jones, Walter Lewis, Mike McQueen, Linnie Patrick, Mike Rodriguez, Kurt Schmissrauter, Malcolm Simmons, Anthony Smiley, Doug Vickers, Jimmy Watts, and Roosevelt Wilder.

The sophomores included Rocky Colburn, Joe Dismuke, Craig Florence, Mickey Guinyard, Sammy Hood, Don Horstead, Emanuel King, Tom McCrary, Scott McRae, Ricky Moore, Terry Sanders, Willard Scissum and Craig Turner.

The freshmen included Venson Elder, Jon Hand and Larry Roberts.

News Hits Texans Hard Aggies Remember Bear

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP) — The fear and respect that his former players held for Paul "Bear" Bryant didn't stop when their college eligibility ran out, former Texas A&M athletic director Marvin Tate recalls.

Last year, Tate and others who played under Bryant at A&M between 1954 and 1958 went to Washington, D.C., for a dinner to honor Bryant as the winningest coach in college football history.

"All of were over 40, but no one dared to have a drink because we were going to see the coach," Tate recalled Wednesday.

Tate, who was A&M's athletic director until Jackie Sherrill's arrival a year ago, was a senior on the Aggie squad when Bryant made his college head coaching debut in the fall of 1954.

"There is absolutely no way you can measure the influence he has had on so many people," said Tate, now a real estate agent in College Station.

Charlie Krueger, as a freshman during Bryant's first season at A&M, had a chance to look at things from a different perspective.

"I was absolutely scared to death of him my entire freshman year," said Krueger, who went on to become a two-time all-America under Bryant's tutelage and an all-pro defensive tackle for the San Francisco 49ers.

Krueger and Heisman Trophy winner John David Crow said they consider themselves fortunate that they played at Texas A&M the same four years that Bryant was there as head coach.

After a 1-9 start, the Aggies improved to 7-2-1 in 1955, when an end by the name of Gene Stallings made all-Southwest Conference, and to 9-0-1 in 1956 and to 8-3 in 1957. Bryant had three all-America players in 1957 — Krueger, guard Dennis Goehring and fullback Jack

Pardee — and two more in 1958 in Krueger and Crow.

Bryant won many games during halftime in the locker room, Krueger said.

"Knute Rockne was a high school debater compared to Bear Bryant. I never knew Knute Rockne, but I know his record is not as good as Coach Bryant's," Krueger said.

Crow took the news off Bryant's death harder than others. He was broken up at the news.

"This hurts me and my family. The one thing I am thankful for is that Coach Bryant knew that I loved him before he died, because I told him so. Anyone who ever played for him was touched by him," said Crow.

Stallings, now the defensive secondary coach for the Dallas Cowboys, said he didn't appreciate Bryant as much when he played for him as he did in later years.

Stallings was coach at Texas A&M when the Aggies defeated Alabama, and Bryant, on Jan. 1, 1968, the last time A&M went to the Cotton Bowl.

"We lost a great man and a great friend. It was a privilege to have been one of the fortunate few to have known him intimately. He lived his life to the very end, coaching. He was a special man because he was special to all those with whom he associated," Stallings said.

Sherrill, one of 16 active college or pro coaches who played under Bryant, said he found himself fashioning himself after Bryant.

"I don't know of any man who touched as many lives in a positive way as he has. He has done that for so many people that it's hard to explain my true feelings," Sherrill said.

"Subconsciously, I think I was trying to follow what he did. I studied every meeting, every talk, his mannerisms and how he handled different situations. I put it in my mind and stored it," he added.

Lost by graduation were 12 offensive performers including 10 linemen and two backs. From that group, four were starters — linemen Beazley, Bramblett, and Mott and running back Fagan. The defense lost 14 performers including five down-linemen, seven backs and two linebackers. From that group, eight were starters — linemen Pitts, Cline and Wood; backs Castille, Sprinkle and Wilcox and linebackers Jones and Lowe. The kicking game lost specialists Peter Kim and Johnny Brooker.

The offense returns 22-lettermen including eight starters (TE Grogan and SE's Jones and Bendross shared starting duties with seven each) while the defense returns 15 lettermen including four starters (five backs, including returnees Gay and Colburn, were considered starters).